

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for communicating messages, comprising:
2 a receiving device for receiving messages, recipient
3 information regarding the intended recipients of the messages
4 and day/hours information designating the day and hours for
5 communicating each message, via a telephone network if an
6 attribute of the message is voice or via the Internet if an
7 attribute of the message is an e-mail;

8 a storage device for storing said messages, said recipient
9 information and said day/hours information received from said
10 receiving device, each being associated with the others; and

11 a transmitting device for transmitting, out of the messages
12 stored in said storage device, a message which is associated
13 with day/hours information designating the current day and hours,
14 via a telephone network if an attribute of the message is voice
15 or via said Internet if an attribute of the message is an e-mail,
16 on the basis of recipient information associated with the
17 message.

1 2. The system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

2 said receiving device receives information on attributes
3 of the intended recipients of the messages;

4 said storage device stores the attribute information on
5 said intended recipients received by said receiving device; and

6 said transmitting device transmits a message via the
7 Internet, if an attribute of the message is voice and an attribute

8 of the intended recipient of the message stored in said storage
 9 device is e-mail, after converting the attribute of the message
 10 into an e-mail, or via the telephone network, if the attribute
 11 of said message is e-mail and the attribute of the intended
 12 recipient of the message stored in said storage device is voice,
 13 after converting the attribute of the message into voice.

1 3. The system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

2 said receiving device receives distinguishing
 3 information for identifying another message related to said main
 4 message to be communicated;

5 said storage device stores, in association with said main
 6 message, said distinguishing information received by said
 7 receiving device; and

8 said transmitting device transmits said main message
 9 together with the distinguishing information stored in said
 10 storage device in association with that message.

1 4. A method for communicating messages, comprising steps
 2 of:

3 receiving messages, recipient information regarding the
 4 intended recipients of the messages and day/hours information
 5 designating the day and hours for communicating each message,
 6 via a telephone network if an attribute of the message is voice
 7 or via the Internet if an attribute of the message is an e-mail;

8 storing said messages, said recipient information and said
 9 day/hours information, each being associated with the others;

10 and

11 transmitting, out of said stored messages, a message which
12 is associated with day/hours information designating the current
13 day and hours, via a telephone network if an attribute of the
14 message is voice or via said Internet if an attribute of the
15 message is an e-mail, on the basis of recipient information
16 associated with the message.

1 5. The method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

2 at said receiving step, information on attributes of said
3 intended recipients of the messages are received;

4 at said storing step, the attribute information on said
5 intended recipients is stored; and

6 said transmitting step, the message is transmitted via
7 the Internet, if an attribute of said message is voice and an
8 attribute of the intended recipient is e-mail, after converting
9 the attribute of the message into an e-mail, or via the telephone
10 network, if the attribute of said message is e-mail and the
11 attribute of the intended recipient of the message is voice,
12 after converting the attribute of the message into voice.

1 6. The method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

2 at said receiving step, distinguishing information for
3 identifying another message related to said main message to be
4 communicated is received;

5 at said storing step, said distinguishing information is
6 stored in association with said main message; and

7 atsaidtransmittingstep, saidmainmessageistransmitted
8 together with the distinguishing information stored in
9 association with that message.

1 7. A program for communicating messages, said program
2 enabling a computer to execute:

3 reception processing to receive messages, recipient
4 information regarding the intended recipients of the messages
5 and day/hours information designating the day and hours for
6 communicating each message, via a telephone network if an
7 attribute of the message is voice or via the Internet if an
8 attribute of the message is an e-mail;

9 storage processing to store said message, said recipient
10 information and said day/hours information received by said
11 reception processing, each being associated with the others;
12 and

13 transmission processing to transmit, out of the messages
14 stored by said storage processing, a message which is associated
15 with day/hours information designating the current day and hours,
16 via a telephone network if an attribute of the message is voice
17 or via the Internet if an attribute of the message is an e-mail,
18 on the basis of recipient information associated with the
19 message.

1 8. The program, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

2 said reception processing includes processing to receive
3 information on attributes of said intended recipients of the

4 messages;

5 said storage processing includes processing to store the
6 attributes of said intended recipients received by said reception
7 processing; and

8 said transmission processing includes processing to
9 transmit the message via the Internet, if an attribute of said
10 message is voice and an attribute of the intended recipient is
11 e-mail, after converting the attribute of the message into an
12 e-mail, or via the telephone network, if the attribute of said
13 message is e-mail and the attribute of the intended recipient
14 of the message is voice, after converting the attribute of the
15 message into voice.

1 9. The program, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

2 said reception processing includes processing to receive
3 distinguishing information for identifying another message
4 related to said main message to be communicated;

5 said storage processing includes processing to store said
6 distinguishing information, in association with said main
7 message, received by said reception processing; and

8 said transmission processing includes processing to
9 transmit said main message together with the distinguishing
10 information stored in association with that message by said
11 storage processing.